



## South Dakota Department of the Military South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs



# DEPLOYMENT CEREMONY TO BE HELD FOR NATIONAL GUARD UNIT

A deployment ceremony will be held for the South Dakota Army National Guard's 216th Engineer Detachment (Firefighting Team) at the Mount Rushmore National Memorial amphitheater, July 17, at 10 a.m. (MDT).

The public is encouraged to attend the event as the unit departs for a nine-month deployment to Romania.

The Rapid City-based 216th is a three-member headquarters team with a mission to provide command and control of assigned or attached fire-

fighting teams to provide fire protection of aviation assets, facilities and installations in the European Command area of operation.

Planned speakers for the ceremony include Gov. Dennis Daugaard, Rapid City Mayor Steve Allender, and Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, SDNG adjutant general.

The unit will report to Fort Bliss, Texas, to complete several weeks of theater-specific training prior to deployment overseas.

Since the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the United States, this will be the second mobilization for the 216th, which deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from December 2003-June 2005.



### ***Inside this issue:***

Deployment Ceremony for 200th	2
Reber Joins Veteran Network	2
KWDH Conference	3
SDVAHCS to Celebrate 68th Anniversary	3
VA Town Halls-Huron and Aberdeen	4
6th Annual POW/MIA Ceremony	5
VA Accountability	6
Welcome Home	7
Healing Wall	8
Upcoming Events	9

## DEPLOYMENT CEREMONY TO BE HELD FOR NATIONAL GUARD TEAM

A deployment ceremony will be held for 15 soldiers of the South Dakota Army National Guard's 200th Engineer Company at Riggs High School in Pierre, July 22, at 1 p.m. (CDT).

The public is encouraged to attend the event as the bridge training team members depart for a nine month deployment to the Middle East.

The soldiers from the Pierre, Chamberlain and Mobridge-based unit will serve as a training assistance team and provide expertise to coalition forces on military bridging systems. As a multi-role bridge unit, the 200th's mission is to assemble, maintain, repair and replace all standard U.S. Army bridging systems.

Planned speakers for the ceremony include Gov. Dennis Daugaard, U.S. Senators John Thune and Mike Rounds, U.S. Congresswoman Kristi Noem, Pierre Mayor Steve Harding, and Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, SDNG adjutant general.

The unit will report to Fort Bliss, Texas, to complete several weeks of theater-specific training prior to deployment overseas.



## REBER JOINS VETERAN NETWORK

Gregory County Commissioners have named Dale Reber as the new County Veterans Service Officer. Dale replaces Mr. Gies and Mr. Farabee.

Dale will have the Gregory office open on Mondays from 8:00 am—5:00 pm. Contact information remains the same, but email address is [gregorycountyvso@outlook.com](mailto:gregorycountyvso@outlook.com).



## ZIMMERMAN ADDRESSES KWDH CONFERENCE

SDDVA Secretary Zimmerman traveled to Washington, D.C. this week to address teachers and veterans attending the Korean War Digital History Conference.

Zimmerman served as one of the speakers Wednesday and shared South Dakota's success stories in contacting Korean War Veterans.

Numerous teachers made presentations at the conference on various topics regarding the Korean War and how to improve classroom curriculum

on the Korean War.

The KWDH Project, has strived to bring veterans and their stories into the classroom since its inception. The KWDH Project encourages teachers to get their students involved with interviewing veterans, analyzing primary sources, and performing service learning projects. To accomplish this goal, the KWDH Project hosts lesson plans, toolkits, and tutorials on its website.



Professor Hahn interviews Korean War Veteran



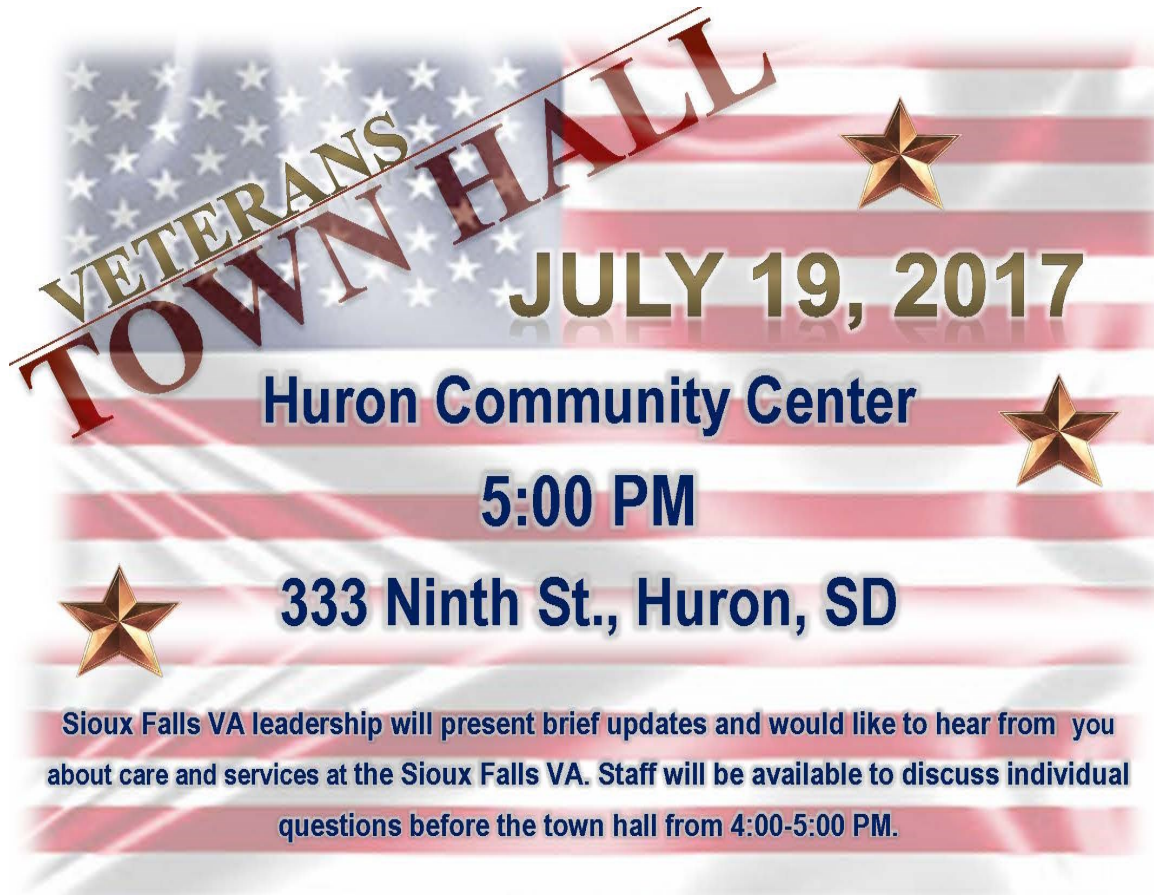
Sec. Zimmerman interviews Korean War Veteran

## SF VA MEDICAL CENTER TO CELEBRATE 68TH ANNIVERSARY

The 68th Anniversary of the first veteran admitted to the Royal C. Johnson Veterans Memorial Medical Center, AKA the Sioux Falls VA Medical Center, is July 19.

Kudos and thanks to all those who are and have worked at the SFVAHCS. You have done an outstanding job of taking care of veterans and their families.





**VETERANS  
TOWN HALL**

**JULY 19, 2017**

**Huron Community Center**

**5:00 PM**

**333 Ninth St., Huron, SD**

Sioux Falls VA leadership will present brief updates and would like to hear from you about care and services at the Sioux Falls VA. Staff will be available to discuss individual questions before the town hall from 4:00-5:00 PM.



**VETERANS  
TOWN HALL**

**AUGUST 10,**

**Senior Center**

**1307 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE, Aberdeen, SD**

**6:00 PM**

Darwin Goodspeed, Director of the Sioux Falls VA Health Care System, and Shawn Bohn, Director of the Dakotas Regional Office, will present brief updates and would like to hear from you about care and services at the Sioux Falls VA. Staff will be available to discuss individual questions before the town hall from 4:00-5:00 PM.





**SIXTH ANNUAL PRISONER OF WAR/MISSING IN  
ACTION PROGRAM VETERAN'S MEMORIAL PARK  
1021 W BAILEY ST, SIOUX FALLS  
SEPTEMBER 15, 2017 AT 6:30 P.M.  
SPONSORED BY VIET NAM VETERANS OF AMERICA  
STATE COUNCIL WITH VIET NAM VETERANS  
CHAPTER 959, SIOUX FALLS AND CHAPTER 1054,  
WATERTOWN, SOUTH DAKOTA.  
SEATING IS AVAILABLE.  
CALL DUANE AT 605-215-2951 FOR MORE DETAILS.**

## VA EXPANDS TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY EFFORTS

U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs David J. Shulkin announced that the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is taking a further step on transparency and accountability as a follow-on to the VA Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act signed by the president less than two weeks ago.

Beginning July 7, the VA is making public a list of adverse employee actions taken since Jan. 20. This information is posted at <http://www.va.gov/accountability>, and will be updated weekly.

Secretary Shulkin pointed to the move as another step in long-sought transparency and accountability actions at the VA, and noted that the VA is the first federal agency to make such data public.

"Under this administration, the VA is committed to becoming the most transparent organization in government," Shulkin said. "Together with the Accountability bill the president signed into law recently, this additional step will continue to shine a light on the actions we're taking to reform the culture at the VA."



"Veterans and taxpayers have a right to know what we're doing to hold our employees accountable and make our personnel actions transparent," he continued. "Posting this information online for all to see, and updating it weekly, will do just that."

For privacy reasons, the adverse action list will not include employee names, but will give information on the position, the VA region or administration and type of adverse or disciplinary action taken.

The list includes terminations, demotions and suspensions over 14 days since the new administration came into office Jan. 20. Additional categories of accountability actions will be included in upcoming releases.

In addition to posting the adverse action information, Secretary Shulkin announced that he is requiring approval by a senior official of any monetary settlement with an employee over the amount of \$5,000. Any settlement above this amount will require the personal approval of the Under Secretary, Assistant Secretary or equivalent senior-level official within the organization in which the dispute occurs.

"Taxpayers need to know that we will engage in good faith settlement negotiations, where required by third parties, but will look to settle with employees only when they clearly have been wronged or when settlement is otherwise in veterans' and taxpayers' best interests, and not as a matter of ordinary business," Secretary Shulkin said. "We're changing to a culture of accountability at the VA, and this is an important step in that direction."





## Honoring Our Patriots

Please join us for Hero & Patriot Night in  
recognition of our Veterans, Service  
Members, and their Families.

### Family Event

Live music  
Refreshments  
Family Activities  
**Veteran Information &  
Resource Exhibit**

### Free Admission

**Thursday July 27, 2017**  
**6:00 pm - 9:00 pm Downtown**  
**Rapid City**  
**Main Street Square**



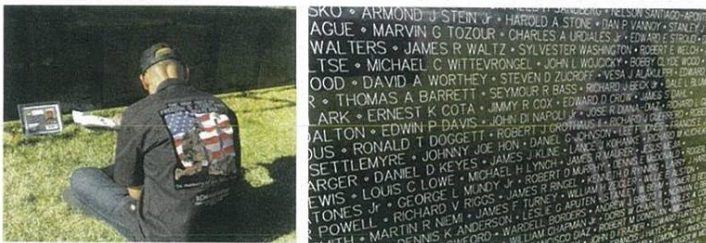




# THE WALL THAT HEALS

will be located at the  
**Rest Area/Information Center off  
I-90 at Chamberlain, SD (Exit 264).**

For more information visit  
**[SDPB.org/Vietnam](http://SDPB.org/Vietnam)**



Local support for **The Wall That Heals**  
comes from your membership in  
**Friends of South Dakota Public Broadcasting.**




# THE WALL THAT HEALS

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL REPLICA & MOBILE EDUCATION CENTER



A PROGRAM OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL FUND  
FOUNDERS OF THE WALL



**ON DISPLAY AT CHAMBERLAIN, SD  
AUGUST 10-13, 2017\***

\*Closes Sunday at 4pm.



On Veterans Day 1996, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) unveiled a half-scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., designed to travel to communities throughout the United States. Since its dedication, **The Wall That Heals** has visited more than 400 cities and towns.

Bringing The Wall home to communities throughout the US allows the souls enshrined on the Memorial to exist once more among family and friends in the peace and comfort of familiar surroundings. The traveling exhibit provides thousands of veterans who have been unable to cope with the prospect of facing The Wall to find the strength and courage to do so within their own communities, thus allowing the healing process to begin.



# Upcoming Events

Jul 14—VABHHCS VSO Congressional Forum—Building 145—Room 108—Fort Meade—10:00 am (MT)  
Jul 19—Purple Heart Run—Sioux Falls Ford (4901 W. 26th Street) - 10:00 am (CT)  
Jul 19—VA Town Hall Meeting—Huron Community Center—5:00 pm (CT)  
July 20—Purple Heart Run—McKie Ford (2010 E. Mall Drive) - Rapid City—10:00 am (MT)  
Jul 21-22 Veterans Rally—W.H. Lyons Fairgrounds—Sioux Falls  
Jul 22—PVA Annual Poker Run—Thirsty Duck Bar and Grill (945 S. Marion Rd) Sioux Falls— 11:00 am (CT)  
Jul 22—American Legion State Commander Hugh Holmes Homecoming—Post 18—11:00 am (CT)  
Aug 5—American Legion State Auxiliary President Elvira Rose Homecoming—Post 17—1:00 pm (CT)  
Aug 10—Veterans Town Hall Meeting—Senior Center—Aberdeen—6:00 pm (CT)  
Aug 10-13—The Vietnam Wall—I-90 Information Center—Chamberlain  
Aug 14-17—SDDVA Annual Benefits School—Pierre—Ramkota  
Aug 16—Sioux Falls VA Show and Shine—VA Parking Lot—5:30 pm (CT)  
Aug 31—Veterans Day at the South Dakota State Fair  
Sept 2—DAV and 727th 13th Annual Poker Run—Brookings  
Sept 9—PVA Trap Shoot—Crooks Gun Club—Sioux Falls  
Sept 11—VA Black Hills Mental Health Summit  
Sept 22 Homeless Veterans Stand Down—VFW Post—Sioux Falls—9:00 am (CT)  
Sept 24—Gold Star Mothers Day  
Sept 25-28 National Women Veterans Art Exhibit—VA Sioux Falls  
Sept 26-27—Aim to Win—Hunters Pointe Shooting Complex—Humboldt  
Sept 28—Women Veterans Conference—Central Baptist Church—Sioux Falls  
Oct 6-8—Fall VFW Conference—Oacoma—Cedar Shores  
Oct 7—Homecomings for VFW State Commander Williamson and VFW State Auxiliary President Alm—  
Cedar Shores—Oacoma—6:00 pm (CT)  
Nov 9-13—VFW Disabled Veterans Hunt—Gettysburg

2018

Jan 28-29—VFW Legislative Conference—Ft. Pierre  
Feb 16-18 American Legion Mid Winter Conference—Oacoma  
Jun 7-10—American Legion State Convention—Spearfish  
Jun 14-17—VFW State Convention—Sioux Falls

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